Opening of foreign investment for SSI

2161. SHRI V.P. DURAISAMY: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to open the Small scale sector to foreign investments and multinational corporations;

(b) if so, reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Department is also planning to prune the list of items reserved for the Small-Scale sector; and

(d) if these decisions are taken, how Government are going to sustain the small-scale sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) 24% foreign equity is already permitted in the Small Scale Sector.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Financial crunch in rural industries

† 2162. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that a number of people in the rural areas are not able to start their industries due to financial crunch/poverty;

(b) if so, whether Government are going to launch any effective programme to promote the rural industry;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.